# DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

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# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

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TO: Economic Support Supervisors
Economic Support Lead Workers
Training Staff

**Child Care Coordinators** 

W-2 Agencies

Workforce Development Boards
Job Center Leads and Managers

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Communications Section

Bureau of Eligibility Management Division of Health Care Financing

BEM/DWS OPERATIONS MEMO									
No:	05-12								
DATE:	03/09/	/2005							
FS CTS FSET JAL WIA		MA CC EA JC Other		SC W-2 CF RAP					
PRIOR	RITY: I	HIGH							

SUBJECT: FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL CHANGES FOR WISCONSIN WORKS (W-2)

AND WISCONSIN SHARES (CHILD CARE SUBSIDY) PROGRAMS

**CROSS REFERENCE:** Child Care Manual

W-2 Manual

DHHS Poverty Guidelines on line for 2005

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** April 1, 2005

#### **PURPOSE**

### This memo:

- Alerts you to changes in the 2005 Federal Poverty Level (FPL) that impact financial eligibility for Wisconsin Works (W-2) employment positions, certain W-2 case management services, Job Access Loans, and Wisconsin Shares (Child Care subsidy program).
- Provides information on the impact on the Child Care subsidy for applicants and recipients.
- 3. Includes the revised 2005 FPL table.

## **BACKGROUND**

Each year the federal government adjusts the Federal Poverty Levels. As a result of the annual FPL changes, income limits for W-2 employment positions, certain W-2 case management

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services, Job Access loans, child care eligibility and the income ranges that are used to determine the family co-payment for child care authorizations change.

#### **POLICY**

Following is the 2005 FPL table for use in the W-2 and Child Care programs:

# 2005 Federal Poverty Levels

Group Size	Annual Amount	Monthly 100% FPL	Monthly 115%FPL	Monthly 200%FPL	Group Size	Annual Amount	Monthly 100% FPL		Monthly 200%FPL
1	\$9,570	\$798	\$917	\$1,595	6	\$25,870	\$2,156	\$2,479	\$4,312
2	\$12,830	\$1,069	\$1,230	\$2,138	7	\$29,130	\$2,428	\$2,792	\$4,855
3	\$16,090	\$1,341	\$1,542	\$2,682	8	\$32,390	\$2,699	\$3,104	\$5,398
4	\$19,350	\$1,613	\$1,854	\$3,225	9	\$35,650	\$2,971	\$3,416	\$5,942
5	\$22,610	\$1,884	\$2,167	\$3,768	10	\$38,910	\$3,243	\$3,729	\$6,485
					Each Added Person	\$3,260	\$272	\$312	\$543

# WISCONSIN WORKS

The effective date for the new income limits for W-2 and Job Access Loans (115% FPL) is April 1, 2005.

## CHILD CARE

The new 2005 Child Care Co-Pay Schedule for Licensed and Certified Child Care can be found at: http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/dws/programs/childcare/wishares/pdf/2005fpl.pdf.

The effective date of the new income limits established in this memo for all new child care subsidy applicants is April 1, 2005.

A CARES annual mass change for child care eligibility ran on March 5, 2005. Applications entered in CARES after March 5, 2005, CARES mass change will use these new FPL income limits in CARES table TCCS for April 1, 2005. All ongoing child care cases, including those that are closing March 31, 2005 in the CARES system, were run in the annual mass change for eligibility on March 5, 2005. All child care cases will have their income updated to a new 2005 FPL percentage. Cases that are closing March 31, 2005, for excess income may remain eligible for child care as a result of the 2005 FPL changes.

Child care authorizations will also go through a mass change scheduled for the weekend of March 19, 2005, that will recalculate all authorizations and recalculate the family co-pay using the new income ranges displayed in table TCFP and the new co-pays displayed in table TCCP. The new authorization rates will be effective March 27, 2005.

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#### Child Care Authorizations

All current and future authorizations that are entered in the child care payment system as of March 19, 2005, will be included in the child care authorization mass change. All authorizations that span the date of March 27 will be recalculated. If the authorization rate has changed, the new authorization rate effective date will be March 27, 2005. If family income has not changed since the current authorizations were created, the new increased FPL income ranges may decrease the family co-pay or not change the family co-pay at all.

All authorizations that are entered after March 19, 2005, that have a begin date of March 27 or later will use the new income ranges to determine the family co-pay. However, if the begin date of authorizations created after the authorization mass change is March 20 or earlier, the period of time for the retro authorization will use 2004 FPL income ranges and co-payment amounts to calculate the authorization amount.

# FAMILY AND PROVIDER NOTICES

All child care cases will go through the eligibility mass change, but ongoing approval notices (AEAX) will not be generated for child care cases that were open in March. These notices are not generated because the eligibility status of the family has not changed.

Family authorization notices will be sent out to all families with children that have current and future authorizations where the rate has changed for an authorization period. This will be the same notice format that families currently receive when an authorization amount changes due to the authorization recalculation done each Saturday.

Provider notices will be similar to the notices that were generated when the county maximum rates changed for 2005. This format lists all children who are authorized to that provider location. When there is no change in the provider payment rate an asterisk will appear next to the child's name. An explanation that the asterisk indicates no payment rate change will be displayed at the bottom of this notice. These notices to providers will not display on the provider's notice history (CNHS), instead they can be viewed as an EOS report. The report name and number is FPL Auth Mass Change Notice CC40 (displays each provider notice) and CC41 (lists providers who received the notice).

### **CARES**

The CARES income limit tables (TWWS, TCCS) used to determine W-2 and Child Care eligibility will be updated with an effective date of April 1, 2005. The CARES Child Care income range table (TCFP) and the Child Care co-pay table (TCCP) used to determine the family co-pay for child care authorizations will be updated with an effective date of March 25, 2005.

#### **CONTACTS**

BHCE CARES Information & Problem Resolution Center

★Program Categories – FS – FoodShare, MA – Medicaid, SC – Senior Care, CTS – Caretaker Supplement, CC – Child Care, W-2 – Wisconsin Works, FSET – Food Stamp Employment and Training, CF – Children First, EA – Emergency Assistance, JAL – Job Access Loan, JC - Job Center Programs, RAP – Refugee Assistance Program, WIA – Workforce Investment Act, Other EP – Other Employment Programs.